

2011-J5276

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating 191 years of Guatemala's Independence from Spain on September 15, 2012

WHEREAS, Guatemala sits at the heart of what was the Mayan civilization until 1523, when the Spanish conquistadores arrived and began colonizing the new world; and

WHEREAS, Guatemala became a large producer of tobacco, sugar cane, cocoa and agave products harvested and prepared for export by the enslaved Mayans and Africans; and

WHEREAS, The first colonial capital, Ciudad Vieja, was ruined by floods and an earthquake in 1542; survivors founded Antigua, the second capital, in 1543; and

WHEREAS, Antigua was destroyed by two earthquakes in 1773; the remnants of its Spanish colonial architecture have been preserved as a national monument; the third capital, Guatemala City, was founded in 1776; and

WHEREAS, Guatemala was a Spanish colony for nearly 300 years, before gaining its independence on September 15, 1821; and

WHEREAS, Guatemala was quickly annexed by Mexico until July of 1823, when it joined the United Provinces of Central America until a civil war lasting from 1838-1840 tore the nations apart; and

WHEREAS, Guatemala's Rafael Carrera was instrumental in leading the revolt against the federal government and breaking apart the Union and thus was President of Guatemala on two occasions; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to honor and thank the many Guatemalans and Guatemalan-Americans who have come to New York in pursuit of a better life and have made so many contributions to our State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate 191 years of Guatemala's Independence from Spain on September 15, 2012; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Ambassador Oscar Padilla Lam, Consul General of Guatemala.